

The Commoner.

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VOL. 7, NO. 43

Lincoln, Nebraska, November 8, 1907

Whole Number 355

CONTENTS

THE ASSET CURRENCY SCHEME
A QUESTION OF RANK
BUSINESS
CYCLONE MONEY
PRETTY SENTIMENTS
PRESIDENT BUTLER'S DANGEROUS
TEACHINGS
STAMPED WITH FRAUD
NO LONGER AN EXCUSE FOR PUTTING
OFF TARIFF REVISION
STOCK GAMBLING MUST GO
A PANIC COME HOME TO ROOST
WASHINGTON LETTER
COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS
HOME DEPARTMENT
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK

A GOOD EXAMPLE

The Springfield, Ohio, Trades and Labor Assembly sets a good example to similar bodies throughout the country. The assembly is made up of delegates from the various trades unions of the city affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Each year this delegate body manages a Labor Day celebration, and the proceeds are devoted to maintaining a free lecture course during the winter months. The lectures are upon economic questions of interest to workmen and calculated to educate them along lines of higher citizenship. The Commoner commends this plan to the central trades unions of every city in the country and urges them to follow the example set by the enterprising and patriotic trades unionists of Springfield.

AND THE SYSTEM GOES ON

The New York financiers have exploited the public and each other until the bottom of the market has dropped out. Then, when the panic came a few big operators rushed into the street and saved the country (and themselves). The metropolitan papers are now singing the praises of these financial saviors but the "system" goes on. The big magnates will not tolerate any legislation which will protect the public, and as a result the country is being driven to government savings banks.

HOW CAN IT BE?

Not a single schedule of the sacred Dingley law disturbed. A republican president in the White House, and both branches of congress safely republican.

And currency payments suspended in spite of it.

Can it be that the Dingley law is not infallible, and that the republican party's boast of being in alliance with the Almighty is unfounded in fact?

GREAT NEED OF BOTH

Mr. Bryan declares that he finds greater satisfaction in talking on religion than on government. Well, do we hear any objections?—Chicago Evening Post.

Considering the source of the above The Commoner opines that there is great need of talk in favor of both good government and religion.



"We'll none of us be safe from him until you use drastic measures, neighbor"

The Asset Currency Scheme

There is such a similarity between the editorials in the city dailies demanding an asset currency as to suggest that the editorials are written in response to a suggestion from the money centers. The big financiers have either brought on the present stringency to compel the government to authorize an asset currency or they have promptly taken advantage of the panic to urge the scheme which they have had in mind for years. Several years ago Secretary Shaw stated that we must either have a perpetual debt or the bank notes would have "some other basis." The "some other basis" referred to is the asset basis. When it became apparent that the public would not tolerate an asset currency the financiers asked for an emergency currency based on assets. This was only a subterfuge and the republican leaders were afraid to press it at the last session. Now it is to be brought forward as if it were a new remedy, just thought of as a panic cure. It is a panic breeder instead of a panacea; it would aggravate rather than relieve the situation. It would increase the bank's liabilities just at a time when depositors are fearful that the bank can not meet present liabilities. The need of elasticity has been very much exaggerated; if banks would prepare in advance for "moving crops" and for such other future demands as may be reasonably expected they would not be confronted by so many "emergencies." The trouble is that they loan to the limit in ordinary times and therefore have no reserve available

for the unusual demands. Another trouble is that the banks are encouraged to keep a large part of their reserve in reserve cities and therefore a shock in any of the big cities disturbs banking everywhere. Just now the country banks can not use their reserves because the big city banks will not allow deposits to be withdrawn.

When the same money is counted over and over in the reserves of several banks the withdrawal of one thousand dollars results in shrinkage of several times that sum.

The democrats should be on their guard and resist this concerted demand for an asset currency. It would simply increase Wall Street's control over the nation's finances and that control is tyrannical enough now. Such elasticity as is necessary should be controlled by the government and not by the banks. The government could furnish a certain amount of elasticity by increasing and decreasing government deposits according to the needs of business; or it could provide for the temporary issue of treasury notes on government bonds whenever an holder of bonds is willing to surrender the interest; or it could issue treasury notes in any emergency. But none of these plans will suit the financiers; they insist upon absolute control of the nation's finances—they to reap the advantage while the public bears the burden and takes the chances.

But the democrats in the senate and house are in duty bound to look at the question from the standpoint of the people, and oppose the